(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Layout for construction of 1 number of Type-VI, 2 number of Type-V and 4 number of Type-IV quarters at Cuddapah in the land at Almaspet has been prepared and sent to circle office for approval.

Release of commemorative stamps

2548. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka has requested for release of a commemorative stamp in the memory of Sri Siddanagowda Sannaramanagowda Patil who is the founder President of the country's first ever Agricultural Cooperative Society India; and

(b) by when the proposed commemorative stamp is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal was examined in the light of guidelines laid down by the Philatelic Advisary Comiittee in order to ensure the philatelic value of the stamps issued, and was found to be not in consonance with the stamp issue guidelines, for the present. It is however, mentioned that a commemorative postage stamp on completion of 100 years of the Cooperative Movement in India has been released on 08.05.2005 at a function organized by the Karnataka State Government a Gadag, Karnataka.

GSM service by BSNL

2549. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that GSM telephone subscriber base is fast increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the GSM lines currently in operation and anticipated increase during the next three years, both in respect of private players and PSUs;

(c) whether it is a fact that BSNL propose to float a global tender shortly for adding 60 million GSM lines at a cost of over Rs. 20,400 crores; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with details of features proposed to be added to the GSM service by BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of Cellular Mobile Telephone lines (GSM lines) provided by both Private Companies and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) as on 30.6.2005 is 44.92 million in the country. Currently more than one million subscribers are being added every month. However, it is difficult to estimate the anticipated growth in GSM lines during next three years.

(c) and (d) BSNL is considering to float a tender for expansion of its Cellular network by around 40 million lines over a period of next two year to include latest state of art network offering third generation services. The cost of project is expected to be around Rs. 13600 crores and the detailed technical specifications are under finalization and expected to include the features like video streaming, video down loading and online games etc.

Waiting list for telephone connections in Jammu

2550. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the persons in the waiting list for telephone connections particularly in Tehsil R.S. Pura under Jammu Telecom Circle for the last three years, Year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the people living in R.S. Pura, Bishna, Kathua, Gangyal, who have deposited money for telephone connections for several years ago, are on waitlist as on date;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and